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Jonathon E. Monken, Director

Motorcycle Safety

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
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Illinois State Police

Motorcycle

Every motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than 3 wheels in contact with the ground.

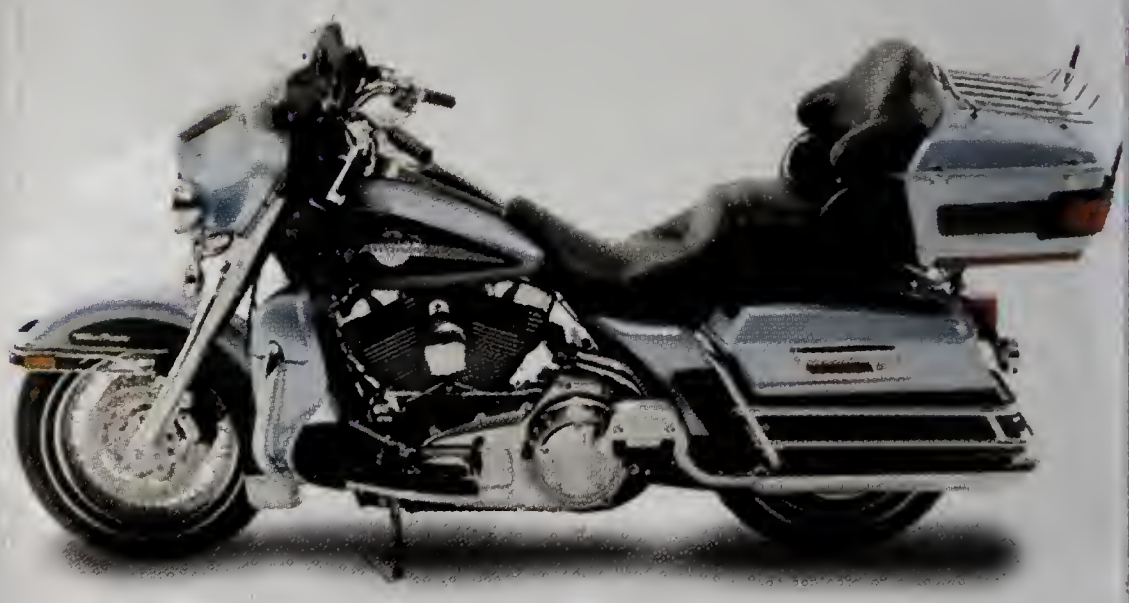
Each of the vehicles below are required to have valid registration and insurance.

Scooter 50cc or less

A valid driver's license with no special classification required.

Small Motorcycle/Dirt Bike 51cc - 149cc

A valid driver's license with an "L" classification required.



Motorcycle 150cc and above

A valid driver's license with an "M" classification required.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Wear it! Use gloves, long sleeve shirts and pants, and always wear boots. Skin and asphalt do not mix well. The choice is yours.

RIDE DEFENSIVELY

Always watch the other person and assume they are not watching you. Leave yourself an "out" and be prepared for any situation.

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SLOW DOWN

Leave your ego at home or on the track.

BE SEEN

Try to make eye contact with other drivers. Use your turn signals every time you change lanes or turn.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Do not mix any alcohol or drugs with your ride time. This is an absolute recipe for disaster. You must be at your sharpest while on your motorcycle. Prescription medications or alcohol can dull your senses and may reduce your ability to operate a motorcycle safely.

COVER YOUR BRAKES

This does not mean ride the brakes, just have your hand and foot on them in case you need them. Make this a habit and you will greatly increase your chances of getting out of a bad situation.

BE PATIENT

We all know the acceleration capabilities of a motorcycle and how quickly you can gain speed compared to cars. Just remember that acceleration can also carry you into a dangerous situation quicker as well. Relax and enjoy the ride.

PAY ATTENTION

At 60 miles per hour you are covering over 80 feet of roadway per second. Concentrate on the road in front of you and avoid daydreaming. Road debris is not a motorcyclist's friend and can get you in trouble quickly.

HELMET USAGE

Over 80% of the motorcyclists killed last year were NOT wearing a helmet. In Illinois, the choice is yours. Think about it … you will never see a professional rider without a helmet.

General Facts

- In recent years, motorcycle fatalities have risen 52% in Illinois, while motorcycle registrations have risen 53%.
- Weather and roadway surface conditions are generally not factors in fatal motorcycle crashes. Approximately 95% of all fatal motorcycle crashes occur in clear weather, on dry pavement.
- The three driver-related factors reported most frequently for fatal motorcycle crashes were:

  Driving too fast for conditions or in excess of the posted maximum speed limit

  Driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medication

  Improper lane usage
- Seventy-one percent of fatal motorcycle crashes occur during the months of May through September, with July and August having the most fatalities.
- Motorcyclists (operators and passengers) killed in recent years accounted for more than 12% of all motor vehicle fatalities. Motorcycle registrations, however, accounted for less than 3% of all motor vehicles registered.

Improper Classification

Twenty-six percent of motorcyclists ride without the proper classification. If you are caught riding without the proper classification, you could lose all of your driving privileges for a period of three months. **Don't let this happen to you!**

Who is eligible to participate in a rider safety program

Illinois residents who are at least 16 years of age with a valid driver's license or instruction permit are eligible to enroll in a free or low cost motorcycle rider training program. If you are already a licensed motorcycle rider with at least one year riding experience, then the experienced rider course is for you. This 8-hour program will develop advanced braking and steering skills as well as develop handling dynamics and traction management skills. For more information or to register for a class, contact your nearest Regional Training Center, or the Illinois State Police Safety Education Unit, at the numbers listed below.

Illinois State Police Safety Education Unit at 217/524-2525

http://www.isp.state.il.us

Motorcycle Rider Safety Course Information

Motorcycles are inexpensive to operate, fun to ride, and easy to park. Unfortunately, many riders never learn the critical skills needed to ride safely. Motorcycling requires skill, concentration, and reasonable precautions. Although it is possible to ride a motorcycle on your own, trial and error is a tough teacher of motorcycling skills. **Motorcycle Rider Safety Courses are available throughout Illinois, and are designed to make you a better rider no matter what your skill level.**

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Motorcycle Safety Project
Division of Continuing Education
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2854
(800) 892-9607
(815) 753-1683
http://www.outreach.niu.edu/mcycle/

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Motorcycle Safety Program
Campus Box 5221
Normal, Illinois 61790-5221
(800) 322-7619
(309) 438-2352
http://www.ilstu.edu/depts/mcsafety/

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
Motorcycle Rider Program
Department of Community Health
#4 Gerty Drive
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(800) 252-3348
(217) 333-7856
http://www.mrp.uiuc.edu

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE
Motorcycle Rider Program
Safety Center
Carbondale, Illinois 62901-6731
(800) 642-9589
(618) 453-2877
http://www.siu.edu/~cycle

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